



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

SALT LAKE CITY PRODUCE FIRM PENALIZED FOR OPERATING WITHOUT A PACA LICENSE

SALT LAKE CITY -- A default order has been issued in U.S. District Court against Oscar Produce, Inc., of Salt Lake City, Utah, finding that the company failed to appear and answer a complaint filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office on behalf of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The action was brought against the company for operating a produce business without a license under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA).

The U.S. Attorney's Office filed the civil complaint in January. The default was issued earlier this month when the company failed to appear and answer the complaint. As a result, Oscar Produce Inc., and its employees are permanently enjoined from conducting business subject to the PACA without a valid and effective license. In addition, a judgment against the company in the amount of \$376,800 has been awarded.

The Act fosters fair trading practices in the marketing of fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables in interstate and foreign commerce. Under the Act, anyone buying or selling commercial quantities of fruit and vegetables must be licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Persons found

engaging in business as a commission merchant, dealer or broker in perishable agricultural commodities interstate or foreign commerce without a valid and effective license issued pursuant to the PACA are subject to civil penalties and injunction.

For more information about PACA go to www.ams.usda.gov/PACA.

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